

VIA AIR
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DISPATCH NO. EGBA-46637

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE DATE: 20 December 1957
FROM : Chief of Base, Berlin INFO: SE
SUBJECT { GENERAL : OPERATIONAL/BEDOX/DIZTAG/HIWAY [] CALL
SPECIFIC : Emil Fridolin HOFFMANN COS
COS

ACTION REQUIRED : None, for information.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Subject first came to our attention in about 1953 as a legal traveler and east/west trader lead. Since then his activity has been monitored sporadically depending on the work load at BOB. This dispatch represents an attempt to pull together for the record the diverse bits of information known about him. His operational possibilities require no elucidation. Headquarters and all agency traces were requested in EGBA-46632, 17 December 1957.

2. BACKGROUND DATA:

Dr. jur. Emil Fridolin *HOFFMANN (DOB: 10 October 1911, POB: Unglinghausen, Kreis Siegen, Westphalia, Germany), was and is still a Nazi. Prior to 1945 he was employed in the German Propaganda Ministry and as Press Attaché at the German Embassy in Bucharest. (PRQ Part I information submitted in EGBA-46638, 20 December 1957.) Following his release from a British detention camp in about 1947 HOFFMANN was in contact with Professor NOACK, leader of the so-called Nauheimer-Kreis (Nauheim Circle) of unreconstructed Nazis who desired to become the nucleus of a new national socialist political organization. When a number of these Kreis members were arrested by the British for subversive activity HOFFMANN disassociated himself from the group.

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3. In the spring of 1949 HOFFMANN was engaged as the Chief of the Frankfurt am Main office of the anti-communist newspaper Echo der Woche, which was published in Munich. In addition, he wrote articles for the Wirtschaftsrevue, a foreign trade journal published in Constance. Later HOFFMANN moved to West Berlin to become the representative for the Handelsgesellschaft Atlas (Atlas Trading Co.) and Imhausen and Co., both of which were involved in east/west commerce. Atlas was at one time of interest to KUBARK as a source of funds for communist activity in West Germany. Because his commercial dealings brought him into touch with particularly shady personalities, among them old friends: Alfred NEHM (DOB: 10 May 1908, POB: ^{mf-s} agent Berlin); Horst KIRWES (DOB: c. 1920, POB: Germany); Carola *SAUER (see EGBA-685, 30 October 1952, et. seq.); and the former Director of the Foreign Trade Section in the pre-Communist Hungarian Foreign Ministry, Laszlo *VASARHELYI (EGBA-37648, 14 December 1956), who is presently a Swedish citizen, HOFFMANN came under suspicion by western intelligence services as an agent for the opposition.

4. In 1953 he left Berlin to live in Mehlem near Bonn. He remained there until the fall of 1955 and occupied himself during this time writing articles for the Volkswirt, a Frankfurt foreign trade and economic journal, as well as completing a book entitled Ost-West-Handel im Zwielicht (lit. East/West Trade at Twilight) in which he expounds his political-economic predilections. These are briefly that he is a bitter enemy of Adenauer's foreign policy and of the United States which has in his view more or less dictated the policy. He sees in the present stalemate between east and west the inevitable neutralization of all Germany under unfavorable conditions and is in favor of negotiating now with the Soviet Union in order to salvage something while there is still time. The radical anti-Americanism he expresses has possibly a deeper personal motive.

5. According to an unconfirmed report from CARBOHYDRATE, HOFFMANN's anti-Americanism is based upon the erroneous belief that United States organizations in Berlin, jealous of his position in trade circles, denounced him as an agent for the east and unjustly harassed, in fact drove him out of Berlin in 1953. HOFFMANN hints that responsible United States officials had ulterior personal motives (i.e., trade or black market connections which they thought HOFFMANN was usurping) in forcing him to leave Berlin. His passport was taken from him too, making travel outside Germany impossible. This action allegedly dashed plans HOFFMANN had made for a business trip to southeast Asia and Indonesia. The outcome of this was loss of income, present and future, and a loss of face among his colleagues. He fell out with VASARHELYI to the point where a lawsuit was required to settle outstanding differences between the two men. The approximate facts in the matter are that both ODOPAL and LfV conducted investigations of HOFFMANN in the early 1950's for essentially the same

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reasons, namely that he was deeply involved in semi-legal east/west trade and associated with proven MFS operatives, e.g., NEHM. While the precise course the investigation took is not known to BOB it can be assumed that it included the usual telephone and mail censorship, surveillance, possibly even hostile interrogation. It is no secret that ODOPAL mugs and finger-prints most suspects and generally treats its clients in dragnet fashion. Probably HOFFMANN underwent some such handling and as an upper class European reacted violently. The taking up of the passport was almost certainly an LfV maneuver, however, BOB is presently attempting to obtain precise details from ODOPAL.

6. Since returning to Berlin (although continuing to reside legally in Mehlem - he still carries a West German identity document) HOFFMANN has been enormously busy as a foreign trade consultant-representative for several east/west firms and as a journalist specializing in eastern economic matters. He represents or has represented variously the firms, Achenbach Soehne; Husco; Geraegebau; Atlas Trading Co.; Husslage; and others, in all their negotiations with satellite trade missions, and writes for the Industriekurier, published in Duesseldorf, the Exklusivdienst, a Bonn newsletter, and occasionally for the Deutsche Press Agentur, primary German news service. His writings deal with east/west trade and politics and he is properly regarded as an expert in this field. He maintains a brisk professional and social liaison with all satellite missions in both east and west Berlin. He entertains members of the Polish, Czech and Jugoslav Military Missions in West Berlin frequently at his home in Zehlendorf within a few blocks of US Headquarters Berlin.

7. In October 1956 he single-handedly organized an unofficial "inspection" trip through eastern Europe for Willi RADEMACHER (DOB: 26 December 1897, POB: Langenhagen Bei Hannover, Germany), important Hamburg FDP politician and member of parliament, and two other politicians. It was the first such postwar trip by other than left-wing Germans. RADEMACHER had "talks" with assorted satellite governmental officials and came away making public statements that West Germany could do business with the east and that the Hungarian revolution was an isolated phenomenon which hardly affected the other satellites, etc. The neutralist press in the Federal Republic made the most of this, naturally. HOFFMANN accompanied RADEMACHER during the entire trip which lasted three weeks. Later HOFFMANN arranged for RADEMACHER to visit Poland and vice versa for Polish trade officials to visit Hamburg. Similar such visits by Czechs to Hamburg and RADEMACHER to Prague followed. HOFFMANN himself has made innumerable business trips to the east in the past two years. These contacts will be helpful to any future German Government anxious for rapprochement with the east, but with no official diplomatic links at its immediate disposal. It is manifest that HOFFMANN is a first rate unofficial contact man and that he would one day welcome an ambassadorship, possibly to Rumania (he speaks the language), under a conservative German regime.

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8. HOFFMANN is always prepared to discourse to anyone who will listen, his political and economic conceptions. In the summer of 1955 he made a lengthy speech to the Berlin Foreign Trade Association in which he lambasted Adenauer's attitude toward trade with eastern Europe. American imposed embargoes came in for heavy abuse. Present during the speech were allied observers as well as important east and west German trade officials. In 1955 a prominent Berlin lawyer and member of the Union of Free Jurists wrote in a private capacity to the publisher of the Industriekurier to alert him to the fact that HOFFMANN's articles presented a slanted view of east/west trade to readers of the publication. The lawyer's letter was shown to HOFFMANN through indiscretion. HOFFMANN thereupon invited the lawyer to a formal discussion of their respective viewpoints. The talks resulted in partial acceptance by the lawyer of HOFFMANN's ideas. He is known as a glib and persuasive talker.

9. As of mid 1955 HOFFMANN continued to stay in touch with Horst KIRWES in East Berlin despite warnings from friends that traffic with such elements inevitably invites suspicion on the part of the authorities. HOFFMANN on the other hand claimed to receive valuable trade tips and political tidbits from KIRWES which were useful to himself as a businessman. HOFFMANN was also reportedly in touch with a fmu BRUENDER of the BfV at about the same time, although the nature of this relationship was unknown to BOB.

10. GERMAN CONTACTS:

The following list of HOFFMANN's more important German contacts is derived from CALLIKAK coverage over a period of years, but principally calendar 1956. CALLIKAK observation of HOFFMANN was suspended at the end of 1956 because

a. BOB was asked by CALLIKAK to drop coverage wherever possible in order to ease its heavy work load, and

b. because HOFFMANN suspected CALLIKAK surveillance and had complained to influential friends in the West German Government about it. Despite the lack of present CALLIKAK coverage of HOFFMANN himself, however, we do not consider the list that follows to be obsolete. CALLIKAK is covering both the Polish and Czech Military Missions in West Berlin and from this we note that their traffic with HOFFMANN is as active as ever. From the names dropped during this intercourse we may assume that HOFFMANN's main contacts of a year ago are essentially the same now. The list follows in alphabetical order with BOB traces included in the descriptive data:

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H / HAMELANG, Gotthold (201-) Reporter for Die Welt, Hamburg daily, right-wing, FDP persuasion, favors east/west trade and normalization of German relations with Soviet Bloc, close to RADEMACHER.

R / HASCHENRENNER, Franz Dr. [] Resides in Berlin-Charlottenburg, Wundstrasse 38, mutual friend of HOFFMANN and REINSCHMIDT, who stays with HASCHENRENNER when in Berlin, possibly identical with a person of the same name who was in the East German Hauptverwaltung Handel und Versorgung (Central Directory for Commerce and Logistics). *612*

H / WELLER, Erwin Studienrat (201-) Resides in Wuertemberg, Saulgau, Friedrichstrasse 18, member of parliament, chairman of the parliamentary deputation of the GB/BEE (Gesamtdeutsche Block/Bund der Heimatvertriebenen und Entrechten), accompanied HOFFMANN and RADEMACHER on a three week tour of southeastern Europe, right-wing politician.

R / FRANK, Kurt Erwin Walte [] DOB: 8 December 1914, POB: Berlin-Weissensee, residing Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kreuznacherstrasse 48, owner of a trucking concern who turned east/west trader and became a paramour of Carola SAUER, and ultimately participated in her activities on behalf of the MfS. *618* is a "du" friend of HOFFMANN, was the subject of BRLN-7980, 23 March 1955 et. seq., association with HOFFMANN possibly dates from pre-war or wartime sojourn in Bucharest, in a CALLIKAK report FRANK refers nostalgically to Bucharest as his "Heimatstadt," (home town).

H / GENTZ, Anna Luisa Frau Dr. (201-) Residing Berlin-Charlottenburg, Stendelweg 3, a dentist, close "du" friend of HOFFMANN and wife, possibly a college friend of HOFFMANN's wife.

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R
WALLER, Kurt Dr. []

Residing Hamburg 13, St. Benediktstrasse 27, lawyer, represents the firm Alfred C. Toepfer g.m.b.h. In Hamburg, "du" friend of HOFFMANN, stays at HOFFMANN's home when in Berlin, is close to RADEMACHER, helped organize the visit of Polish trade officials to Hamburg as guests of the city, engaged in varied business deals with HOFFMANN and the east chiefly Poland. *End*

H *akp*
✓ HOLGER or HOELGER, Kurt (201-)

Friend of HOFFMANN who, according to CALLIKAK, "had undergone a struggle similar to mine (i.e., HOFFMANN's)" (possible reference to postwar denazification processing), HOFFMANN took pity and aided him financially until he got on his feet again in import/export business, in late 1956 HOLGER went on a prolonged bender in a whore house near Potsdamer Platz, which outraged HOFFMANN and caused a break between the two men. *End*

H
✓ HUSSLAGE, Gerrit (201-)

Dutch citizen, resident of Berlin-Charlottenburg 9, Koenigen Elisabethstrasse 4, director of the import/export firm of HUSSLAGE und Van Vuuren g.m.b.h., Berlin-Charlottenburg, Lietzensee Ufer 5, firm is engaged in selling and purchasing assorted products, e.g., chemicals, synthetic wurst casings, HOFFMANN works for HUSSLAGE on a commission basis and was in 1956 in almost daily contact with him. *End*

H
✓ MUELLER, Waldemar (201-)

Business colleague, "du" friend, travels frequently to Essen, Bonn, Duesseldorf and other West German cities, probably a resident of Hamburg. In contact with various businessmen trading with the east. Has contacted Czech Trade Mission in Frankfurt. Involved with HOFFMANN in a large sugar deal in late 1956. *End*

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✓ *RADEMACHER, Willy Max Speditour (201-
Previously Carded

) Resident of Hamburg 39, Sierichstr. 90, FDP (Freie Demokratische Partei) member of parliament from Hamburg's 22nd election district, deputy chairman of the parliamentary transportation committee, accompanied HOFFMANN on a three week trip through eastern Europe arranged by HOFFMANN, is a force in those right-wing, vaguely neutralist circles that are anti-Adenauer, etc., it is apparent from CALLIKAK reports that HOFFMANN regards RADEMACHER as an important official contact.

✓ REINSCHMIDT, Hans (201-)

Resident of Kreuztal, Westphalia, official of the firm Achenbach Soehne in Busch-huetten, Kreis Siegen, Westphalia. a rolling mill and foundry which engaged HOFFMANN through REINSCHMIDT to build up its market in eastern Europe. REINSCHMIDT is also a "du" colleague of HOFFMANN, is frequently in Berlin on business where he contacts the Polish and Czech Missions both professionally and socially, in Berlin he usually resides with ASCHENRENNER (see above), in a CALLIKAK report HOFFMANN offered to REINSCHMIDT's boss to "build up your entire eastern market" for due consideration, a later report indicates that the consideration offered HOFFMANN was two per cent per sale, which HOFFMANN rejected as too little.

✓ SAUER, Karola nee DORSHEIMER (201-
44

) DOB: 8 February 1911, POB: Wiesbaden, Germany, (see ECLA-17045, 21 December 1955, et. seq.), reported variously to be an east/west blackmarketeer and trader par excellence, an RIS/MfS agent and kidnapper, depraved and a millionairess, HOFFMANN's connection with her is uncertain, but it appears that he had some business dealings with her (possibly concerning mutual investment of money in an east/west trading concern to be jointly operated by HOFFMANN and SAUER), the two apparently did not see eye to eye and SAUER then tried to put

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*SAUER (Continued)

HOFFMANN out of business altogether by denouncing him as a bad business risk, opposition agent, and so forth, HOFFMANN professed to FRANK, SAUER's onetime business partner and boy friend, that he hated SAUER.

H
✓ SCHENKE, Wolf, Journalist(201-

)Special correspondent of Die Welt whose writings reflect a political position similar if not identical to HOFFMANN's, is an associate of AMELANG (see above) as well, has visited eastern Europe and Peking as a newspaperman and written more or less uncritically about the possibility of doing business with the east, HOFFMANN has arranged several meetings between members of satellite delegations in Berlin and SCHENKE, he gave the Polish official visit to Hamburg a favorable press.

H
✓ SEIBOTH, Frank, Journalist(201-

)Resident of Frankfurt am Main, Marbachweg 107, GB/EHE member of parliament and deputy chairman (deputy to FELLER above) of the GH/EHE parliamentary delegation, also accompanied HOFFMANN, RADEMACHER and FELLER on their tour through eastern Europe, politician of the RADEMACHER school.

H
✓ SORGE, Georg, Journalist (201-

)See EGBA-46124, 25 November 1957. SORGE is a fellow member of the press with wide contacts among official satellite delegations in Berlin, principally the Poles. HOFFMANN's relationship with him does not seem to go beyond an exchange of facts and figures, political gossip, etc., about eastern trade and politics, in addition they discuss personalities in the field of "east/west" journalism with some relish.

H
✓ WIESNER, Anni(201-)

Operator of a beauty parlor at Berlin W 15, Lietzensee 15, a "du" friend of HOFFMANN and his wife, in late 1956 HOFFMANN purchased a new Opel automobile and borrowed part of the purchase price from WIESNER on a short term loan basis.

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✓ ¹⁴ YERSIN, Alfons Dr. (201-)

Lawyer, residing at Berlin-Nikolassee, Von-Luck-Strasse 5, office in Berlin-Charlottenburg, Uhlandstrasse 180, represented HOFFMANN in a suit brought against Adam Opel A.G. in Berlin, the new Opel HOFFMANN bought in late 1956 (see WIESNER above) had a faulty transmission which Adam Opel A.G., the seller, refused to repair or replace, HOFFMANN sued, YERSIN also represented HOFFMANN in a plea to Berlin city authorities to restore his drivers license which had been cancelled for some unknown reason, YERSIN is frequently called "Kasimir" by HOFFMANN, which may be a middle name, YERSIN is reputed to be honest, discreet and objective, he is well known by CARBOHYDRATE/CADROIT.

11. SATELLITE CONTACTS:

We cannot list all the names of satellite officials in East Berlin with whom HOFFMANN has or had connections during the past years because he has at one time or another been in professional (that is, both as a businessman and a journalist) and social association with every east European commercial and diplomatic representation with the possible exception of the Albanian. His social activity with these people has included attendance at their official receptions, cocktail parties and the like. There is no evidence that he has ever been to the home of an official in East Berlin, or that he has invited East Berlin stationed officials to his home in West (US) Berlin. Neither is there any indication that HOFFMANN is personally close to a particular East Berlin official. On the other hand he has frequently entertained at his home members of the Jugoslav, Polish and Czech Military Missions stationed in West Berlin and these three missions for reason of geography if nothing else appear to be his primary points of contact. From CALLIKAK we know that he is closest to the following mission personnel:

✓ ¹⁴ HRADECKY, Kvetoslav (201-)

Chief, Czech Military Mission, DOB: 15 February 1909, POF: Upice, CSR; residing Berlin-Grunewald, Gustav-Freytag-Strasse 3, arranged RADEMACHER trip to Prague, in frequent contact with HALLER in Hamburg, heavy social traffic with HOFFMANN and wife, see EGBA-46703, 20 December 1957 for BI data on HRADECKY.

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R
POLUDNIAK, Stanislav

First Secretary, Polish Military Mission, DOB: 11 November 1925, POB: Przemysl, Poland, residing Berlin-Gruenwald, Tepitzerstrasse, contact with HOFFMANN professional and social, POLUDNIAK appears probably responsible for PP play in the West German press, and channels much material through HOFFMANN for publication. See EGBA-38262, 11 January 1957, for BI data on POLUDNIAK.

R
RACZKOWSKI, Jerzy

Press and Cultural Attaché, Polish Military Mission, DOB: 26 October 1927, POB: Poland, residing in the mission building, HOFFMANN works about equally with RACZKOWSKI and POLUDNIAK, see EGBA-38262, 11 January 1957, for BI data on RACZKOWSKI.

R
STRAKA, Jan

Second Secretary, Czech Military Mission, DOB: 28 March 1923, POB: Krnov, CSR, residing Berlin-Steglitz, Dietrich Schaeffer Weg 30, is in contact with HALLER in Hamburg, sees HOFFMANN socially, relationship appears to be primarily concerned with east/west trade. See EGBA-46703, 20 December 1957, for BI data on STRAKA.

Although no members of the Jugoslav Mission are listed above it can be assumed that HOFFMANN has cultivated contacts with them, most probably with Josip *MADJAR (DOB: c. 1916, POB: Karlovac, Jugoslavia), the Chief. HOFFMANN had excellent access to the mission through MADJAR's predecessor Zdenko *DOSTAL (DOB: c. 1918, see EGBA-44873, 4 October 1957), who departed Berlin in September 1957, and it is unlikely that he has permitted this association to lapse.

12. In addition to the above HOFFMANN is in fairly regular touch with CARBOHYDRATE, a BOB agent. They are "du" friends and CARBOHYDRATE is the source of much of the narrative information on HOFFMANN set forth in preceding paragraphs. From CALLIKAK we know that HOFFMANN has confided to CARBOHYDRATE the substance of his relationship to SAUER, FRANK and Co., and has sought his advice on several occasions when he had (good) reason to believe that both the MfS and US intelligence were interested in him. There is a hint in CALLIKAK reports that HOFFMANN is aware of CARBOHYDRATE's connection to an American agency. We intend to debrief CARBOHYDRATE on this score for obvious security reasons and to follow up with a detailed summary of his relationship to HOFFMANN.

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13. CASE OFFICER COMMENTS:

We have considered and rejected a number of possible approaches to HOFFMANN. We doubt on the basis of what we know now that HOFFMANN can be recruited in the usual sense. The more or less negative forms of recruitment for example, picking him up on a security charge and then offering to let him off the hook if he works for us - we have rejected out of hand. He has too many influential friends in the West German press and Government to whom he would complain, as he did when he suspected CALLIMAK surveillance. Moreover, lets face it, these recruitments are rarely successful. We do feel that after additional vetting by CARBOHYDRATE it may be possible to induce HOFFMANN to meet with an American posing as an economic researcher surveying east/west problems. He could be sounded out on his willingness to write on a regular basis a few dozen paragraphs respecting particular aspects of the research - for a price, of course. If this cooperation with the American, possibly using an ODACID office for meetings, showed signs of developing over a period of months into a personal friendship, it might be possible gradually to elicit from HOFFMANN some of the economic, political and personality information that we want. Played carefully and by throwing an occasional benefice his way - offering for example, to look into his record with US security, which he is bound to mention anyway - HOFFMANN might be wooed a little at least over to our side. This, incidentally, would serve to clear up some of the genuine security doubts about him, e.g., his connection to KIRWES and POLUDNIAK. Pending receipt of traces requested in EGBA-46632, 17 December 1957, and other local investigation including CARBOHYDRATE coverage, we plan tentatively to hit HOFFMANN in the manner described. Headquarters will be kept informed of further action.

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